Amendments to the Specification

The applicants request the office replace the following paragraphs in the specification as follows:

[0093] FIGS. 31 and 32 show an embodiment of the present invention with a slide cap 120 within a firsts cylindrical component 110. The first cylindrical component 110 has a substantially rigid elongated tubular structure having a proximal and a distal end and having an opening 104 aligned with the axis of the actuation component 40 extending continuously between the proximal and the closed distal end. The first cylindrical component 110 includes an annular structure 102 used as a retaining ring, wherein the annular structure being on the most proximal end of the outer surface of the component 110 so as to prevent the component 110 from advancing past second cylindrical component 70.

[0094] The slide cap 120 is located within the first cylindrical component 110. The first cylindrical component 110 includes an annular ring 44 positioned on the distal outer surface of the first cylindrical component 110 so as to prevent the second cylindrical component 70 from advancing past the first cylindrical component 110. The distal end of the first cylindrical component 110 has an annular opening 104 in the most distal part of the first cylindrical component 110 and having its axis in alignment with the axis of the first component so as to allow the needle cannula 24 to pass through it. Yet another feature of the first cylindrical component 110 is a surface 106 positioned at the most distal end of an internal opening 108 and the surface 106 is slanted at an angle to the axis of the first cylindrical component 110. FIG. 35 shows the first cylindrical component 110 having a recessed area consisting of two parallel walls 111 being spaced apart so as to allow surfaces 124 of cap 120 (FIG. 33) to be in a sliding fit between the walls 111, and the walls are oriented in the slanted direction of surface 106.

[0095] FIGS. 33-34 show the slide cap component 120 as a substantially rigid elongated tubular structure having a proximal and a distal end and having an opening aligned with the axis of the actuation component 40 extending continuously between the proximal and the closed distal end of the cap. The most distal outer surface 122 of the slide cap 120 is slanted at an angle to the axis of the slide cap 120. The surface is at an angle matching the interior surface 106 of the first cylindrical component 110 of the slide cap version. The slide cap 120 has an annular opening 112 on the slanted surface 122, offset and a distance from the center axis of slide cap 120. The slide cap 120 has a recessed annular area 116 centered around annular opening 112 and protruding toward the proximal opening of the slide cap 120 and forming a raised surface 116a around the annular opening on the underside of slanted surface 122. A purpose of raised surface116a is to prevent the needlepoint 68 from sliding into annular opening 112. The slide cap 120 has a larger tubular section 118 extending proximally a given distance and its distal end merging with the smaller tubular section 119, forming a recessed 121 area for the spring 54 to nest into. The tubular section 119 forms a barrier around the needlepoint 68 for added protection. As shown in FIG. 33, the parallel walls 124 are equally spaced from the centerline of slide cap 120.

A substitute drawing page is also being submitted.